

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 STR-04 /095 W

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R 251208Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7432

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0353

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, PFOR, US

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: SAO TOME

REF: STATE 037591

1. IN ACCORDANCE REFTEL, DCM EDMUND T. DEJARNETTE IS DESIGNATED MULTINATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICER.

2. SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE HAS BEEN INDEPENDENT ONLY SINCE JULY 1975, AND ITS MULTILATERAL INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES ARE STILL EVOLVING. THE TWO MAJOR INFLUENCES ON THE EVOLUTION OF ITS MULTILATERAL POLICY ARE A) TIES TO PRE-INDEPENDENCE FRIENDS; AND B) NEED FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. MANY MEMBERS OF GSTP AND LEADERS OF SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY RECEIVED TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. THESE SAME PEOPLE WERE ALSO CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH LEADERS OF OTHER LUSOPHONE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS SUCH AS MPLA, FRELIMO, AND PAIGC. SINCE THESE ASSOCIATIONS AND ASSISTANCE WERE SO IMPORTANT DURING VERY RECENT PRE-INDEPENDENCE PAST, STRONG FEELING OF SOLIDARITY WITH FORMER COMRADES AND BENEFACTORS AND ESPECIALLY WITH EX-PORTUGUESE BLOC OF PROGRESSIVE AF STATES

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REMAINS AS MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN GSTP MULTILATERAL POLICY DECISIONS. HOWEVER, STP IS TINY, ISOLATED ISLAND

COUNTRY (75,000 POPULATION) WITH FORMIDABLE OBSTACLES IN WAY OF ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY. PRAGMATIC ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION INDICATES THAT MOST LIKELY CHANCE OF SURVIVAL LIES IN ASSOCIATION WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN AND MODERATE AF STATES AS SOURCES OF CAPITAL AND MARKETS FOR STP EXPORTS. NEED TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THESE ECONOMIC TIES HAS ALREADY TEMPERED BOTH MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL POLITICS ON OCCASION. UNLESS SOME PRESENTLY UNFORESEEN ECONOMIC LINKS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WERE TO DEVELOP, THIS MODERATING ECONOMIC INFLUENCE SHOULD GROW IN IMPORTANCE AS PE-INDEPENDENCE ASSOCIATIONS FADE INTO PAST.

3. FOLLOWING REPLIES ARE LISTED BY LETTERS CORRESPONDING TO QUESTIONS IN PARA 7 REFTEL:

A) AMONG MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS, GSTP ATTACHES PRIME IMPORTANCE TO OAU AND ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS TO UN, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF ASSISTANCE FROM UNDP AND ASSOCIATED AGENCIES. IN SPITE OF INABILITY TO MAINTAIN PERMANENT UN REPRESENTATIVE, GSTP HAS PREFERRED BEING ABSENT FOR VOTES TO ACCEPTING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THEIR MISSION WHICH MIGHT LESSEN ITS INDEPENDENCE. STP HAS APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP IN IMF AND EEC LOME CONVENTION GROUP WITH MAJOR OBJECTIVES BEING TO OBTAIN TECHNICAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE OR TARIFF ADVANTAGES FOR EXPORTS.

B) GSTP IS MOST STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY OTHER LUSOPHONE AFRICANS, AND HAS SO FAR BEEN MORE OF A FOLLOWER THAN LEADER IN THIS GROUP. HOWEVER, THERE WERE ONE OR TWO OCCASIONS WHEN ITS POLICY STATEMENTS ON ANGOLA WERE NOTABLY MORE CONCILIATORY THAN REST OF PRO-MPLA BLOC. IN A CRUNCH AND UNLESS CLEARLY CONTRARY TO ECONOMIC INTEREST, GSTP WILL LIKELY VOTE WITH MOZAMBIQUE-LED LUSOPHONE AF STATES FOR TIME BEING.

C) EMBASSY IMPRESSIONS ARE THAT GSTP REPS RECEIVE ONLY VERY GENERAL GUIDELINES ON MAJOR ISSUES AND ARE TOLD TO VOTE WITH OTHER EX-PORTUGUESE COLONIES IN ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS. COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN SAO TOME AND ANYWHERE ARE VERY POOR AND DELEGATIONS ARE ON THEIR OWN ONCE THEY LEAVE ISLANDS.

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D) GSTP CURRENTLY HAS ONLY ONE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO A MULTILATERAL BODY (AMBASSADOR D'AMORIM, WHO IS RESIDENT IN LISBON AND CONCURRENTLY ACCREDITED TO UN). SHE HAS NO INDEPENDENT POWER. HOWEVER, GSTP DELEGATIONS TO MULTILATERAL FORA USUALLY INCLUDE MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT WITH PERSONAL POLITICAL STATURE. THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE ALTERED OR STRAYED FROM POSITION ADOPTED BY GSTP AS WHOLE, BUT THEY SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF EXERCISING INDEPENDENT JUDGEMENT IN ABSENCE OF GUIDELINES FROM SAO

TOME.

E) GSTP GIVES IMPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN TO AND  
CONSIDER U.S. POSITIONS. THIS UNDOUBTEDLY DUE IN SOME  
DEGREE TO SAO TOMEANS' NATURAL FRIENDLINESS AND SENSITIVITY  
TO OFFENDING OTHERS, BUT ALSO PROBABLY RESULTS FROM HOPE  
THAT USG MAY PROVIDE SOME DESPERATELY-NEEDED ASSISTANCE.  
TO DATE, HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS NOT HAD NOTABLE  
SUCCESS IN INFLUENCING GSTP POSITION OR VOTES IN MULTI-  
LATERAL ISSUE. IN ANY CASE, GSTP CERTAINLY  
AWARE THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH USG AND OTHER  
COUNTRY'S ARE AFFECTED BY MULTILATERAL ISSUES AND  
ACCEPTS GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT ACTION ON THESE QUESTIONS  
AS NORMAL DIPLOMACY. STEIGMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LIBREV00353  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Line Count:** 128  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 37591  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: SAO TOME  
**TAGS:** PORC, PFOR, US, XX, (DEJARNETTE, EDMUND T)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006